

PRESS RELEASE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

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Indianapolis, IN 46204

Indianapolis, Indiana (December 11, 2023): This fall, for the fourth consecutive year, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana participated in a Bill of Rights Day student art and essay competition in collaboration with federal district courts across the seventh and eighth judicial circuits. The contest was open to students in grades 5-12.

Almost 700 students across 10 states submitted art and essays proposing additional amendments to the Bill of Rights. The contest culminated in a virtual awards program on Wednesday, December 6, at which time contest winners were announced.

Participating courts received many wonderful submissions and the decision was difficult. All students who entered a submission are to be congratulated for their effort. Overall, 32 finalists were selected to compete in the grand prize round of the competition. Finalists from Indiana included Leah Steup (high school essay), Davenie Beaton (high school art), Ms. Darcy Rund's class (middle school art), and Jinha Han (middle school essay).

In addition, two grand prize winners from Indiana were announced during the live event. First place in the high school essay division was awarded to Leah Steup of Fort Wayne, Indiana, who wrote an enlightening essay on the right to medical care. First place in the high school art division was awarded to Davenie Beaton of New Albany, Indiana, who drew a political cartoon arguing for the need for a balanced budget amendment. Two other grand prize winners hailed from Wisconsin.

Congratulations to all contest winners! Winning submissions can be viewed on the Judicial Learning Center website (<https://judiciallearningcenter.org/bill-of-rights-day/>). Contest details for 2024 will be announced in the spring.

Bill of Rights Day is officially celebrated annually on December 15.